

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02431 161640Z
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FOR IOP/M

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: -

SUBJ: -

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD LEFT ZAMBIA TODAY
WITH A STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS
ACCUSATION THAT FRANCE HAS HELPED SOUTH AFRICA ACQUIRE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS.

MR. DE GUIRINGAUD TOLD REPORTERS HIS TRIP TO ZAMBIA WAS A "BREAK-
THROUGH" AND SAID HE HAD MANAGED TO CONVEY A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF FRANCE'S MOTIVES AND POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO HIGH
RANKING ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS HE HAD BEEN MEETING DURING HIS THREE-DAY
VISIT HERE.

THE FRENCH MINISTER SAID HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE FRENCH EMBASSY
IN MOSCOW TO LODGE A FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST A TASS ALLEGATION
THAT FRENCH NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA HAS ENABLED THAT
COUNTRY TO BE ABLE TO POSSESS AND PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONRY.

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HE SAID OF THE ALLEGATION: "THIS TASS DISPATCH IS NOTHING BUT
A LIE. AND I SAY IT AGAIN: IT'S A LIE. AND I WANT THE TASS
RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE TO KNOW IT, AND ALSO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.
AND THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES KNOW VERY WELL IT IS A LIE."

HE SAID THE ELECTRO-NUCLEAR PLANT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SOLD TO
SOUTH AFRICA IS SOLELY MEANT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE

ELECTRICITY AND IT WILL NOT BE READY FOR USE UNTIL 1982.

"NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAN BE MADE OUT OF THIS PLANT. WE HAVE PUT ON THIS PLANT THE ORDINARY SAFEGUARDS OF THE VIENNA AGENCY AGAINST PROLIFERATION.

"WE HAVE ON TOP OF THAT PUT IN THE CONTRACT THAT WE WILL REPROCESS THE USED FUEL IN-FLOWS AND THE PLUTONIUM WHICH IS EXTRACTED DURING REPROCESSING WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO SOUTH AFRICA. IN SUCH CONDITIONS, THAT PLANT CAN IN NO WAY BE USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ATOMIC WEAPONRY," HE SAID MR. DE GUIRINGAUD.

HE SAID HE WAS "SURPRISED" THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, WHO KNOW THE TASS REPORT TO BE A LIE, HAVE "PERMITTED THE TASS DISPATCH TO BE PROPAGATED, AND I HAVE ORDERED MY EMBASSY IN MOSCOW TO RAISE A FORMAL PROTEST AGAINST IT."

MR. DE GUIRINGAUD, WHO FLEW TO MOZAMBIQUE, THE NEXT STOP ON HIS AFRICAN TOUR, SAID HIS COUNTRY HAS STOPPED ARMS SUPPLIES TO SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NAVAL VESSELS. HE STRONGLY DENIED THE NUCLEAR PLANT FRANCE WAS BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS. HE SAID THE FACILITY WAS PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE PRETORIA GOVERNMENT TO MAKE GRADUAL CHANGES AND TO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THIS PEOPLE, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE. HE DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING A 45-MINUTE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KALONDA, AS "VERY ENCOURAGING."

"I CAN REPORT POSITIVE RESULTS AFTER MY VISIT, AND THE RESULT I HAD IN MIND HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, BECAUSE A DIALOGUE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL HAS BEEN STARTED," HE SAID.

HE SAID HE EXPECTS ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS TO VISIT FRANCE BEGINNING SOON TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE. ITEM USIS LUSAKA. BURNS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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